

➤ Wilderness Permits

If starting in the Parks:

To preserve the wilderness environment and experience, its use is limited via a required overnight camping permit. A charge of \$15 per permit for hiking parties and \$30 per permit for stock parties is being implemented. The overnight camping fee is required of all parties making advanced reservations. Each trail has a daily entry quota (see page 3), approximately 2/3 of which is available for advanced reservations. The remainder plus any unreserved spots are available first-come, first-served at ranger stations or trailheads.

Maximum group size is 15 people for all trails except those in Redwood Canyon, where the maximum is 10.

Advance reservations

A reservation allows you to prearrange a firmly committed trail entry date during the summer. Reservations are available for trips starting May 21 through Sept. 21; outside that period all permits are first-come, first-served in the park. Request reservations by mail or fax only, at least 21 days in advance; requests are not accepted before March 1 or after Aug. 31. The overnight camping fee must be included with your reservation request and is non-refundable after the reservation has been processed.

Reservations are strongly recommended for large groups, stock users, and on holiday weekends. Trips starting mid-week are usually easier to reserve than weekend starts. Providing us with alternate dates or trailheads makes it easier to get a reservation. If your plans change, please contact the Wilderness Office or the appropriate trailhead ranger station to cancel or alter your reservation. This gives others the opportunity to enjoy the wilderness.

PERMIT RESERVATION APPLICATION

(Supply all information requested)

Entry Date _____ Exit Date _____

Trail Entry _____

Trail Exit _____

Method of Travel _____
(Foot, horse)

Number of People in Group _____

Number of Pack and Saddle Stock _____

Overnight Camp Areas # Nights in Camp

(best estimate)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Name _____

Organization (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Reservations are \$15/permit for hiking parties, \$30/permit for stock parties. There are no refunds after the reservation is processed.

Method of payment:

Check or money order \$ _____

Credit card (circle one): Visa, MasterCard

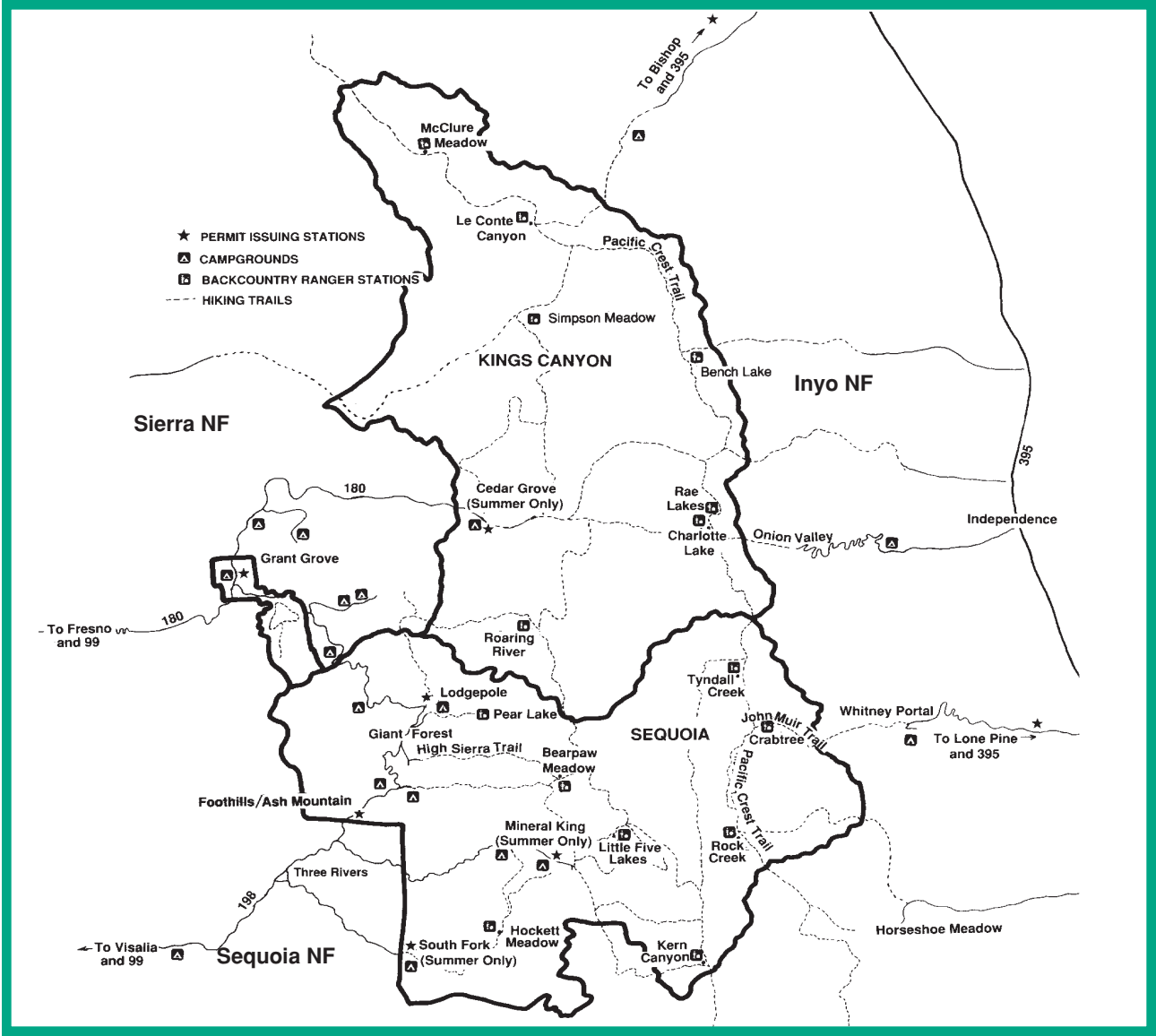
Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Signature as on card _____

Print name as on card _____

Send to: Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
HCR89 Box 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
FAX (559) 565-4239



At the trailhead

Permits are available at the ranger station nearest your trailhead. Reserved permits must be picked up by 9 a.m. on the day of departure or the afternoon before. If you are delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation.

First-come, first-served permits may be issued the morning of your trip or after 1 p.m. the afternoon before. If the quota for your desired trail is full, you can choose another trail or another day to start. Permits are not written late in the afternoon since minimum distances must be reached before camping is allowed (see page 3). Ask about our frequent traveler permit.

If you plan an evening arrival to begin the next morning, remember: camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in established campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads. Except for busy weekends, campsites are normally available in campgrounds until mid-to-late afternoon. Camping is also available in nearby Forest Service areas and commercial campgrounds.

If starting at U.S. Forest Service trailheads:

When trips cross agency boundaries, obtain permits from the agency on whose land you start. For trips originating at Forest Service trailheads and entering the national parks or vice versa, only one permit is required. "Through" hikers on the John Muir or Pacific Crest trails obtain a permit only from the agency where they begin their trip. However, some rules differ between Forest Service and National Park Service lands. You are responsible for knowing where you are and following the regulations that apply.

Sequoia National Forest

This national forest, which wraps around the southern and western portions of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, has no quotas on trails. A free wilderness permit is required for entry only into the Golden Trout Wilderness. A park permit, available at the Grant Grove Visitor Center, is required for parties entering the parks from the Big Meadows area. A campfire permit (free) is required for overnight use anywhere on the forest. Obtain fire permits at Ranger District Offices in Blackrock, Lake Isabella, Kernville, Springville, or Dunlap, or contact the Supervisor's Office at (559) 784-1500 or:

900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

Sierra National Forest

This forest lies west and north of Kings Canyon National Park. It includes all or portions of the John Muir, Monarch, Dinkey Lake, and Ansel Adams wilder-

nesses. Trailhead quotas apply from the last Friday in June through Sept. 15. Free permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis at the district office closest to your trailhead. For reservation information and inquiries, call (559) 855-5360:

Pineridge Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651

For maps and further information contact:
Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612
(559) 297-0706

Inyo National Forest

The area from the Sierra Crest to the Owens Valley is administered by Inyo National Forest. Many popular trails, including the shortest route up Mt. Whitney, originate on the Inyo. Most trails have daily quotas and permits are required. Reservations (\$5/person) may be made six months in advance by mail, fax, and phone. Reservations for the Mt. Whitney Trail can only be made by mail or fax during the month of February.

Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Permit Reservation Service
873 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Information: (760) 873-2485

➤ Climbing Mt. Whitney

Due to its overwhelming popularity, hiking to the highest point in the contiguous United States is limited. The daily quota on the Whitney Trail (100% reservable 5/15-11/01) is 115 day users and 60 overnight hikers. During summer and early fall the overnight quota frequently fills months in advance. (This quota does not apply to hikers whose trip begins at Sequoia National Park trailheads.)

A three-square-mile area around the summit encompassing both Forest Service and Park Service lands has been designated the Mt. Whitney Zone. It runs from just west of Lone Pine Lake in Inyo National Forest to Timberline Lake near Crabtree in Sequoia National Park.

Reservations for the Whitney Trail, or other access to the Mt. Whitney Zone from Inyo National Forest, must be made through the Inyo NF Wilderness Permit Reservation Office (see Inyo above). The permit reservation fee is \$15 per person for both day and overnight use.

For information on trail conditions contact:
Mt. Whitney Ranger Station (760) 876-6200